

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Klaus Schumann, Frank Seibertz and Peter Steinborn
Serial No. : 09/763,267 Confirmation No.: 5473

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION - Remarks

In the Office Action mailed June 17, 2003, the Examiner has rejected claims 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and has rejected claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art disclosed in the specification in view of Doering, Jr., U.S. Patent No. 3,813,846 ('846). Applicant appreciates that the Examiner found that claims 7, 8, and 10 to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, applicant herein cancels claims 1-12.

Applicant submits new claims 13-19. Support for claim 13 can be found in the specification on page 2, lines 18-30 and page 6, lines 18-26. Support for claims 14-19 can be found in the specification in the table on page 8.

Pursuant to claim 6, two sealing stations are present, each of the two sealing stations being provided with one heated sealing tool. The subject matter of the present application is a single sealing unit which may comprise two heated sealing tool or sealing heads (both terms stand for the same device) working together at the same time in that they are pressed against each other. Both sealing tools are provided with two or more contact area structures corresponding to the predetermined weld lines.

Said amended set of claims is believed to define the present invention such that its gist becomes more apparent, namely, that one of the heated sealing heads is heated to

temperature above the melting point of the weldable polymer and that the other cooperating heated sealing head is heated to a temperature below the melting point of the weldable polymer such that a temperature above the melting point of the weldable polymer is reached during heat sealing in the weldable laps. Cited reference neither suggests the use of two heated sealing heads nor setting the temperature of the first heated sealing head above and of the second heated sealing head below the melting point of the weldable polymer. Therefore, cited prior art did not make the present invention obvious to the skilled artisan at the time it was made.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is requested. No new matter has been added. The examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if there are any matters which could be discussed to expedite the prosecution of the above-identified application.

Respectfully submitted,

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